REMARKS

The present application was filed on October 12, 2001, with claims 1-27. The Examiner previously withdrew claims 11-24 and 27 from consideration. Consequently, claims 1-10, 25, and 26 are pending.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Noguchi (United States Patent Number 6,611,939 B1), and rejected claims 3, 4, 9, and 10 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Noguchi in view of Cameron (United States Patent Number 5,099,482 A). The Examiner has indicated that claims 5 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims.

Independent Claims 1, 25 and 26

Independent claims 1, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Noguchi. In particular, the Examiner asserts that Noguchi teaches performing error correction in a reduced power mode...(...the abstract in Noguchi teaches that error correction is terminated to reduce power consumption).

Applicant notes that, as the Examiner acknowledges, Noguchi teaches that error correction is ***terminated*** to reduce power consumption (see, col. 3, lines 12-25; col. 5, lines 54-62; col. 9, lines 18-40 and 54-60). Noguchi teaches, for example, that,

> further, the clock signal which is supplied to the data error correction device is stopped *during a period after the error correction processing is terminated* when the decoding has been repeated less than the predetermined number of times, till the iterative decoding for the next data is started. Therefore, the power consumption in the data error correction device can be further reduced.
>
> (Col. 9, lines 54-50.)

Noguchi teaches to ***terminate*** *error correction and, as a result, reduces power consumption*; the present disclosure teaches to ***perform*** *error correction in a reduced power mode*. Independent claims 1, 25, and 16 require performing error correction in a reduced power mode.

Thus, Noguchi does not disclose or suggest performing error correction in a reduced power mode, as required by independent claims 1, 25, and 26.

Additional Cited References

Cameron was also cited by the Examiner for its disclosure of the use of the particular elements of a decoder for Reed-Solomon codes and how an uncorrectable error is determined from intermediate polynomials. Applicant notes that Cameron is directed to determining whether a received message that has been Reed-Solomon encoded is correctable by Euclid's algorithm. (Col. 1, lines 11-13.) Cameron does not address the issue of performing error correction in a reduced power mode.

Thus, Cameron does not disclose or suggest performing error correction in a reduced power mode, as required by independent claims 1, 25, and 26.

Dependent Claims 2-10

Dependent claims 2, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Noguchi, and claims 3, 4, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Noguchi in view of Cameron.

Claims 2-10 are dependent on claim 1 and are therefore patentably distinguished over Noguchi and Cameron (alone or in any combination) because of their dependency from independent claim 1 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to their base claim. The Examiner has already indicated that claims 5 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims.

All of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1-10, 25, and 26, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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